

March 21, 2019

Judiciary Committee

In Support of Bill Title: HB 7389 : AN ACT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE CASE OF A DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER OF A JUVENILE'S CASE TO THE REGULAR CRIMINAL DOCKET AND IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Hello, my name is Karen Ravenelle-Bloom. I am from the Town of Willington. I am in favor of Bill HB 7389 that requires the state to remove all youth under 18 from adult Department Correction facilities by July 1, 2021. Transferring youth to adult court does not reduce violence or enhance public safety as published by the findings of the Task Force of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Adult court is not appropriate for youth under 18. The facilities, services and staff are not created for or trained to be effective for youth. Without access to rehabilitative services and after exposure to solitary confinement, youth held in adult facilities re-enter their communities with significant barriers to emotional, educational, or vocational success.

As someone who has worked in the field of Youth Services for over thirty years in the area of prevention, I feel that this bill will better serve the youth and ultimately their families and communities by having them be separated from adults involved in the correction system.

Thank you,

Karen Ravenelle-Bloom  
164 Daleville Rd.  
Willington, CT 06279  
860-487-1717